In the Claims

All claims have been reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. (Currently Amended): A container for an explosive device comprising:

an outer containment vessel, adapted to rest either on one end or one side, said outer vessel including an outer access port;

an inner containment vessel positioned completely within said outer vessel, said inner containment vessel including an inner access port;

a means for ~~suspending the explosive device within said inner containment vessel~~ lining the inner containment vessel such that the explosive device is at least partially suspended; and

a means for rotating at least one vessel with respect to the other;

wherein engagement of said rotating means causes at least one of said containment vessels to rotate from a position wherein said inner access port is aligned with said outer access port to a position wherein said inner access port has been rotated from about 90 to about 180 degrees with respect to said outer access port such that debris, blast pressure, and fireball from explosion of an explosive device within said inner vessel are safely contained or severely mitigated.

2. (Currently Amended): The container of Claim 1, wherein the outer surface of said inner containment vessel is contoured to the inner surface of said outer containment vessel with a small clearance therebetween such that a close tolerance is maintained between the outer containment vessel and the inner containment vessel.

3. (Original The container of Claim 2, wherein a filler material is inserted into said clearance.

4. (Original) The container of Claim 3, wherein said filler material is flame retardant.

5. (Original) The container of Claim 1, wherein the outer containment vessel comprises a central portion and an end dome, wherein said end dome is removably secured to the central portion.

6. (Original) The container of Claim 1 further comprising a cover for said outer access port.

7. (Original) The container of Claim 6, wherein said cover is flame retardant.

8. (Original) The container of Claim 1, wherein said inner containment vessel further comprises a lining material.

9. (Original) The container of Claim 8, wherein said lining material is capable of supporting an explosive device toward the center of the inner vessel.

10. (Original) The container of Claim 8, wherein said lining material is flame retardant.

11. (Original) The container of Claim 1, wherein said outer containment vessel is spherical.

12. (Original) The container of Claim 1, wherein said outer containment vessel is cylindrical.

13. (Original) The container of Claim 1, wherein said rotating means comprise a lever arm attached to said inner containment vessel, whereby engagement of said lever causes said inner containment vessel to rotate from a position wherein said inner access port is aligned with said outer access port to a position wherein said inner access port has been rotated from about 90 to about 180 degrees with respect to said outer access port.

14. (Original) The container of Claim 13, wherein said rotating means is activated remotely.

15. (Original) The container of Claim 14, wherein said rotating means is a motorized mechanical drive system.

16. (Original) The container of Claim 1, further comprising a sealing means provided between said outer containment vessel and said inner containment vessel such that chemical or biological agents to be dispersed are completely contained within the unit.

17. (Original) The container of Claim 1, further comprising one or more access valves which permit sampling post-detonation contents of the container for purposes of analysis.

18. (Currently Amended): A method of suppressing blast effects associated with detonation of an explosive device, said method comprising the steps of:

inserting said explosive device into a blast container comprising a-d, said a-d comprising:

(a) an outer containment vessel, adapted to rest either on one end or one side, said outer vessel including an outer access port;

(b) an inner containment vessel positioned completely within said outer vessel, said inner containment vessel including an inner access port;

(c) a means for ~~suspending the explosive device within said inner containment vessel~~ lining the inner containment vessel such that the explosive device is at least partially suspended; and

(d) a means for rotating at least one vessel with respect to the other;

engaging said rotating means;

~~whereby~~ wherein engagement of said rotating means causes at least one of said containment vessels to rotate from a position wherein said inner access port is aligned with said outer access port to a position wherein said inner access port has been rotated from about 90 to about 180 degrees with respect to said outer access port such that debris, blast pressure, and fireball from explosion of an explosive device within said inner vessel are safely contained or severely mitigated.

19. (Previously Presented): A container for an explosive device comprising;

an outer containment vessel, adapted to rest either on one end or one side, said outer vessel including an outer access port;

an inner containment vessel positioned completely within said outer vessel, said inner containment vessel including an inner access port;

one or more access valves which permit sampling post-detonation contents of the container for purposes of analysis;

a suspension mechanism for suspending the explosive device within said inner containment vessel; and

a rotation mechanism for rotating at least one vessel with respect to the other;

wherein engagement of said rotation mechanism causes at least one of said containment vessels to rotate from a position wherein said inner access port is aligned with said outer access port to a position wherein said inner access port has been rotated from about 90 to about 180 degrees with respect to said outer access port such that debris, blast pressure, and fireball from explosion of an explosive device within said inner vessel are safely contained or severely mitigated.